

To : Chief, Economic Research Area, ORR 4 October 1955
From : Chief, Materials Division, ORR
Subject : Exchange of Delegations
REF : Memo from Chief, Materials Division dated 16 September 1955

The following information is supplied in response to your verbal request.

By and large the benefits accruing to the United States from an exchange of delegations with the Soviet Union is in the field of intelligence. As noted in the memorandum referenced above and in much greater detail in the Gaps in Intelligence submitted by all Branches to ST/I, information is lacking on many phases of Soviet Industry. Such information would greatly assist the intelligence effort of this nation in assessing Soviet capabilities and vulnerabilities.

Intelligence regarding the statistics of production within the U.S. is largely available to the Soviet Union in the open literature of this country. The prime targets therefore of the Soviet delegation would be this nation's technological development and application of theoretical concepts to production. In this respect, particularly in the application of theory, the U.S. is generally far ahead of the U.S.S.R. Observing our latest and most advanced plants would be of inestimable benefit to the U.S.S.R.

CHEMICALS

gain to U.S.

Intelligence on the Soviet Petro-Chemical Industry, Plastics industry, state of technology, age of equipment and equipment fabrication.

gain to U.S.S.R.

In the fields of Petro-Chemicals and Plastics the United States is far ahead of the rest of the world. The Soviets would have the opportunity to learn of our latest advances in production technology, our latest types of production equipment, and would receive guidance for the later placing of orders for units or prototypes. A comprehensive tour of facilities would diminish our lead in these fields by years.

MAGNESIUM

gain to U.S.

Intelligence on the Soviet Magnesium Industry. At the present time we know very little about the status of this industry in the U.S.S.R. We are reasonably certain however that it is far behind that of the U.S. We would like to learn to what extent the Soviets have been successful in applying the latest technology, production statistics etc.

gain to U.S.S.R.

The United States is far ahead of the rest of the world in the processing of Sea Water to obtain magnesium and we possess by far the best and most efficient processes in this field. It is very doubtful if the Soviet Union

has experienced any success whatsoever. In addition the Dow Chemical Company has developed a method of rolling magnesium which no other nation possesses.

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*was briefed on the
memorandum.*